

REMARKS

Claims 6, 9-13, and 30-56 remain in this application. Claims 1-5, 7-8, and 14-29 have been cancelled without prejudice to their subsequent reinstatement. Claims 6 and 9-13 have been amended. Claims 30-56 have been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his careful examination and for finding allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that claim 6 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. The Examiner has also indicated that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and to overcome the rejection of the base claim under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office Action.

Applicants submit that claims 6 and 9 have been amended as indicated, and are believed to be allowable. Claim 11 has been amended and is believed to be allowable for reasons similar to those of claims 6 and 9. Dependent claims 10, 12, 13, and new claims 30-56 depend on one of claims 6, 9, or 11, and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected claims 3, 22 and 25 because of informalities. Claims 3, 22, and 25 have been cancelled herein, so it is believed the objection is moot.

35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-10, 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, with regard to claims 8-10, the Examiner has suggested replacing the term “one-way link” in claim 8 with just “link”. Claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 8 but with “link” substituted for “one-way link”, as suggested by the Examiner. Claims 8, 26, and 27 have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection of these claims is moot.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection – Keen et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 23 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,664,091 issued to Keen et al. With the Exception of claim 10, these claims have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection is moot. Claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 9, which is believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejection – Miller et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 8, 10, 23 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,727,002 issued to Miller et al. With the Exception of claim 10, these claims have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection is moot. Claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 9, which is believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection – Harrington et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 23 and 25-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,289,012 issued to Harrington et al. With the Exception of claim 10, these claims have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection is moot. Claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 9, which is believed to be allowable.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection – Wolfgang

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-24 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,570,843 issued to Wolfgang. With the exception of claims 10-13, these claims have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection is moot. Claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 9, which is believed to be allowable. Claim 11 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of either claim 6 or 9, and is believed to be allowable therefor. Claims 12-13 depend on claim 11 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein.

35 U.S.C. §102(e) Rejection – Larrson et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 10-13, 15-24 and 26-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,424,625 issued to Larrson et al. With the exception of claims 10-13, these claims have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection is moot. Claim 10 has been amended to depend on claim 9, which is believed to be allowable. Claim 11 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of either claim 6 or 9, and is believed to be allowable therefor. Claims 12-13 depend on claim 11 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection - Keen et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-13, 18-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,664,091 issued to Keen et al. With the exception of claims 11-13, these claims have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection is moot. Claim 11 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of either claim 6 or 9, and is believed to be allowable therefor. Claims 12-13 depend on claim 11 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection - Miller et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 4, 11-22, 24 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,727,002 issued to Miller et al. With the exception of claims 11-13, these claims have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection is moot. Claim 11 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of either claim 6 or 9, and is believed to be allowable therefor. Claims 12-13 depend on claim 11 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection – Harrington et al.

The Examiner has rejected claims 11-22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,289,012 issued to Harrington et al. With the exception of claims 11-13, these claims have been cancelled, so it is believed the rejection is moot. Claim 11 has been amended to include limitations similar to those of either claim 6 or 9, and is believed to be allowable therefor. Claims 12-13 depend on claim 11 and are believed to be allowable therefor, as well as for the recitations independently set forth therein.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all claims now pending patentably define the subject invention over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed at the earliest possible date.

Request For Telephone Interview

The Examiner is invited to call Brent E. Vecchia at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Request For An Extension Of Time

The Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 for such an extension.

Charge Our Deposit Account

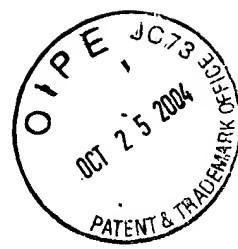
Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 10-22-04

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 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes
 2 of 2

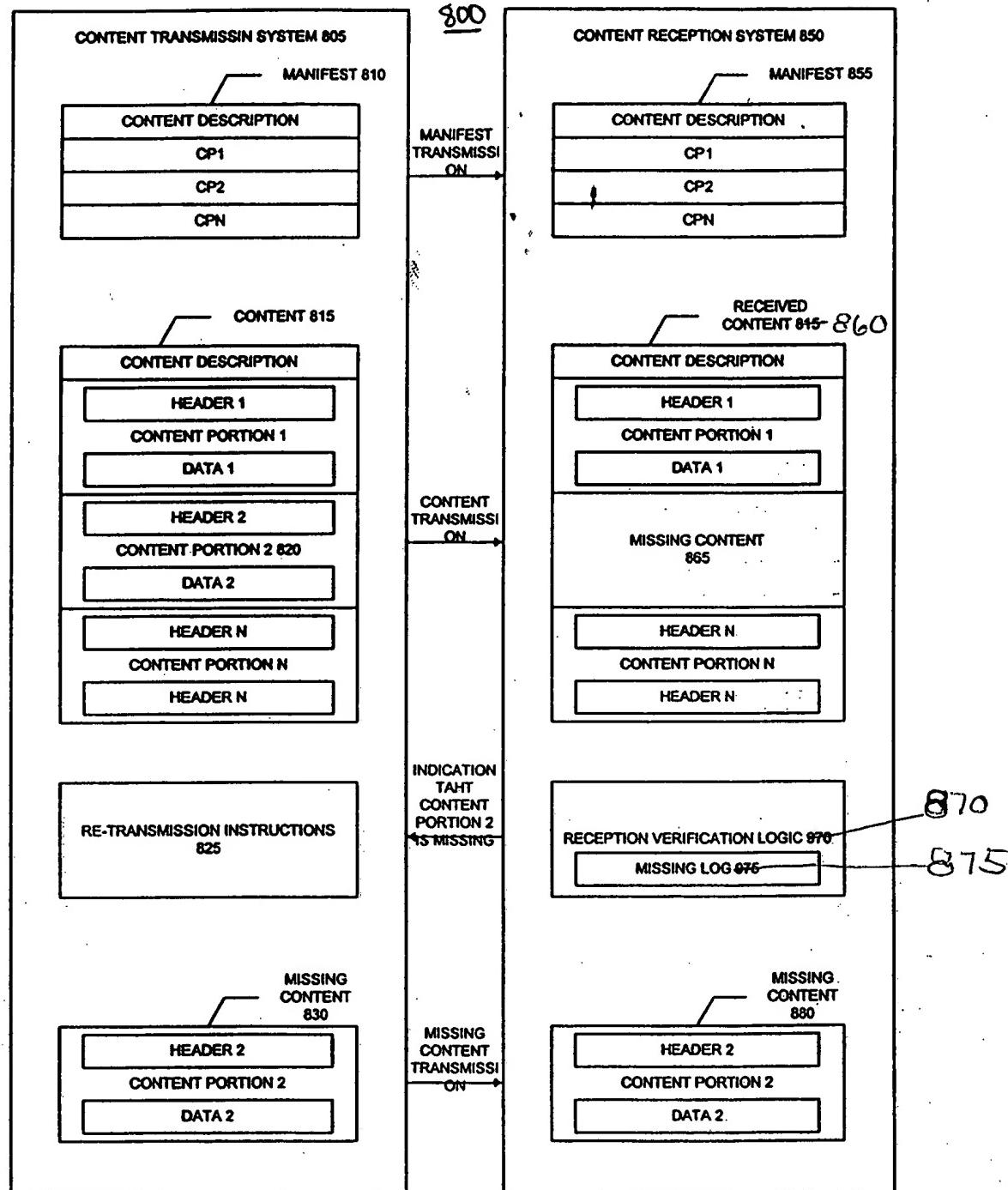


FIGURE 8